Macleod, John James Richard [Professor of physiology] 1917 - 1918

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(87)

Macleod, John James Richard (Professor of physiology)

September 13th, 1917

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Western Reserve University,

Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Professor Macleod:

We are looking forward to the opening of our session and have pretty nearly completed our arrangements for the winter. Probably we shall get Miss Cullis for four months to give lectures in Physiology. She was Professor Prodie's assistant, in London. We are still hoping that you will be able to come to us next year. I trust that Mrs. Macleod's health is improving in such a way that your future is clearing up.

I wish to consult you about the Chair in Biochemistry. I have just received a most enthusiastic letter from Dr. Jacques Loeb in favour of Professor T. Brailsford Robertson as an excellent man for our Chair in Biochemistry. I judge from the tenor of his letter that he is of opinion that Professor Robertson would come to us. What would be your judgment as to his suitability ? Also, if suitable, do you know whether we could get him ?

Another proposal that we have had in mind was the transfer of Professor Hunter to Biochemistry and the filling of his chair of Chemical Pathology with a new man. Hunter has corresponded with several as to whether they were moveable or not. Of the three Dr. McCrudden of Cambridge, Mass. gave a favourable

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reply, or at least sufficiently favourable to make it worth our while to pursue inquiries. Hunter is not so set upon the change to Biochemistry that he would not remain where he is if we could secure an excellent man for Biochemistry. I think if Robertson were to come he would be willing to stay where he is, but inasmuch as we hope to have you, we wish to consult your interests, and I should like to have your views on the whole situation. If you agree to the suggestion perhaps you might sound Robertson for us, if you know him.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
LABORATORY OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY

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September 24, 1917

Sir Robert A. Falconer,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Sir Robert:

I received your letter of September 13 on my return from a month's vacation. I wish to thank you for your inquiry concerning Mrs. Macleod's health, which I am glad to say is much improved.

I am much interested in the possibility of your securing Brailsford Robertson to fill the chair of biochemistry. I have a very high regard for his work, and consider that you would be most fortunate if you could secure him. Three years ago when we expected to be able to establish a full department of biochemistry here, Robertson was our first choice as its possible incumbent. I do not know him personally, but I was led to believe, at that time, that he was casting his eyes towards the East. The other alternative that you mention, namely, the transference of Professor Hunter to biochemistry, would also I believe be a very satisfactory solution of your problem. I have had occasion recently to become more directly familiar with Hunter's research work, and I can indorse the opinion of others that it is of high quality. Of his teaching ability I cannot speak, but I know that he is a man of high ideals, and probably of considerable executive ability. I have a high regard for him personally.

I am glad that you have found a solution for the physiology problem for the coming year, and I regret only that I was not able to help you more. We are very shorthanded here, and will become more so as the war conditions develop.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. J. R. Macleod

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December 7th, 1917

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Western Reserve University, Cleveland, O.

Dear Professor Macleod:

I have just had word from Professor Braileford Robertson that he is coming on the 10th of January to deliver a lecture and to look into the situation here in Biochemistry. We have therefor some hope that he may be the man for our place, and that he may be willing to accept the position.

I hope that we may be able to count on your coming to us for the next year. We have been working along at extreme difficulty this year, though fortunately Dr. Bartram has carried a heavy load very well indeed, and we have a graduate returned from the front who is taking part of the lecture work. We are having Miss Cullis come from London to give lectures in Physiology for three months from the beginning of the New Year. She was for a long time Assistant for Dr. Brodie in London and understands his methods.

In Biochemistry, however, we have been in great straits. Macallum's withdrawal to Ottawa left us in difficulties, which however we might have overcome if it had not been that the United States military authorities called up Dr. Baumann our Lecturer and in spite of the strongest representations have not released him. What we are to do we hardly know but Punter may have to carry the most of the work for the next term.

I hope that Mrs. Macleod's health is improving

and that your anxieties on her behalf are lessening. With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year when they come,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
LABORATORY OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY

[Dec. 1917]

Sir Robert Falconer
President Toronto University

Dear Sir Robert;

You have no doubt attributed my failure to reply to your letter of December 5th to silent acceptance of the renewed invitation which it contains to become Professor of Physiology at Toronto. Unless Mrs Macleod's state of health should have a serious setback which would make removal to Toronto an impossibility I will accept the position and will be prepared to assume my duties at any time after June 30th.

I greatly appreciate the honour which you and the Governors do me in holding the position open and I will enter it with great expectations for the encouragement of research and in the prosecution of teaching of Physiology in the University. I understand the terms of appointment are the same as those of the previous offer.

I will visit Toronto for a few days in the early spring in order to go into details of equipment and other matters, so that I may have my plans of organization properly worked out. Meanwhile however there are one or two preliminary matters that I should like to consult you about.

I saw Dr Hartmann in Minneapolis and had a conversation with him concerning his work, both teaching and research. He impresses me as a very good man, his papers before the Physiological Society being of a high order and representing a large amount of careful and painstaking research. I do not think that we could do better for next year than reappoint him as Lecturer, a position

which he says, he would be willing to accept. He thinks however that his salary should be increased and my impression at present is that the request ought to be granted. It is very difficult to get the right men to fill such positions at present; Hartmann's services during the past two years in press work having been unusually good for an inexperienced man and they would be of especial value to me because of his knowledge of local conditions. I think, moreover, that he would do very good research work if relieved of some of his onerous teaching duties.

I wish to ask your advice regarding the advisability of bringing my present laboratory technician, Warnick by name, with me. He has been in this department ever since I came to Cleveland and has become invaluable in many ways. I have trained him to take practically entire charge of the preparation of material & apparatus for all the teaching work, he is an expert operator and, being a carpenter by trade is a very efficient general mechanic. It would undoubtedly greatly lessen my burden if I had him with me and so allow me to continue my own research and get other persons interested in such work which I consider of the greatest importance to do. We are paying this man $1200 a year at present and would have to offer him somewhat more to start with as well as a definite promise up to $1500 if he proved satisfactory. This I may say is about what similar men in many other laboratories are getting. Warnick might not accept the position because he owns a home in Cleveland & his wife might not agree to try to persuade in new place. He is a true American, Slovak by nationality I believe. He

Nature - Urban training; Lab work, operating care of animals & taking notes.

Mechanic, Slovak

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gets on well with the other servants and is a splendid general manager of the 'lower regions' – upper in Toronto I think –.

With regard to ways & means, I understand that the department has had the services of a laboratory man (for animals &c) a stenographer (part time) a glass blower (part time) and a cleaning woman (part time) & that there is at present, besides these, an excellent mechanician giving all his time. I would suggest retaining the present mechanic since there will be much apparatus to repair and new apparatus to make. To provide for Warnick's salary, however, it might be necessary to have the mechanic spend some of his time in working for the Hospital (electro-cardiograph) or other departments and to dispense with a glass blower for the first year at least & have the necessary work of this nature done outside. The stenographer's time might also be cut down somewhat.

Cleaner transferred under Superintendent of Wards

These are naturally merely preliminary suggestions but I am very anxious to make certain that I have a competent staff to start with and I want to know what the possibilities are. Warnick is about 33 years of age, married with one child. What would be his standing with the draft?

You will see that I am quite confident of being with you in Toronto but since the unexpected

might happen I would request you to delay any announcement of my acceptance until say, April 1st at which date I would also notify the authorities here.

With well-wishes for the New Year to Lady Falconer and yourself I am

Sincerely Yours

J. J. R. Macleod.

A57-0007/2420 (Original)

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
LABORATORY OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY

Dear Sir Robert,

I had written but not yet mailed a letter to you when yours arrived yesterday evening. It was somewhat delayed since it was addressed to Western Reserve Univ. without specifying the Medical School.

I wish to apologize for being so long in replying to your letter concerning Robinson, the technician in Physiology. I have been very busy indeed trying to get manuscript ready for a book, which I had promised for the middle of the month. It is gone and now I can turn my thoughts to other things.

I would not of course do

anything that would interfere with the reappointing of men who have gone to the front. I should very much have liked to have my own 'Friday' with me but this weighs but little when compared with the University's duty with regard to post bellum reappointments.

Regarding the question of recalling Robinson for next year, there are so many things to consider that I will visit Toronto for a day or two in February if it will be convenient for you to have me do so. I could find out many details about the equipment, teaching requirements & so forth that would enable me to know exactly what has to be gotten ready in advance for next year & what would be the wisest thing to do about assistants.

It is very courteous of the Committee of science Professors to invite me to express my opinion regarding the projected offer to Brailsford Robertson. The members

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If the committee have the advantage of ~~personal contact with~~ having met Robertson and no doubt some of them are familiar with his scientific work. It is found is impossible several years ago to find out anything definite about his administrative and teaching qualifications but my judgment is that it is wise to give the benefit of the doubt when the scientific record is of the high quality that Robertson's is. Toronto University is to become the research centre of Canada if we have a man of Robertson's calibre in Biochemistry the success of that department from a research point of view, will be assured.

We are having a very trying winter this year for Mrs Macleod

but so far she is weathering it all right and we are both sincerely hoping that nothing will happen to interfere with our migration 'over the border'

Unless I hear from you to the contrary I will plan to be in Toronto sometime between the 11th & 15th February

With regards

Yours

Sincerely Yours

J. J. R. MacBeth.

January 3rd., 1917

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Department of Physiology,

Western Reserve University,

Cleveland, O.

My dear Professor Macleod:

[illegible]

[illegible] Year. [illegible]

[illegible] with us [illegible] the Year [illegible].

[illegible] to say that we are expecting Chancellor Robertson to address us on Thursday, January 18, [illegible] view of the possibility that we might offer a chair in Biochemistry I thought that perhaps you might like to meet him, if you do not know him, so that if you know it convenient to come over to Toronto next week it would give us much pleasure to see you.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 4th, 1914

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Department of Physiology,

Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Professor Macleod:

Your letter which reaches me this morning is very welcome and I am sure that the Faculty of Medicine will be very glad to know that you are coming to us next autumn. I will, however, not announce it as a fact until after the first of April, but I will lay your letter before the Board of Governors at its meeting on Thursday of next week.

I have spoken to J. J. Mackenzie about details and I am to see him again. He leaves town to-day and will be back on Sunday. He will go over with Parkman the details of this winter's work and will write you as I will my self more fully at the beginning of the week.

You will now get a letter I hope stating that we expect Cruikshank Robertson to be with us next week.

With kind regards and best wishes for the New Year,

Yours, Yours sincerely,

President.

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January 7th, 191-

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Professor Macleod:

I have gone over with Professor Mackenzie the various items in your letter. Of these the most important is your suggestion with regard to bringing your present laboratory mechanician with you. You intimate that you are not sure whether he would be willing to come so that I suppose the suggestion is really a tentative one so far. With regard to the suggestion I should say that the man who fills the position now, who is Robinson by name, was brought out by Professor Proslie from England, who trained him and made him into a first class mechanician. He is a carpenter by trade, but has become an excellent laboratory attendant, good at operating, and is very care of animals. For the past two and a half years he has been serving overseas with our hospital, first in Salonica and now in England, and we have promised to keep his position for him. Mackenzie was with him at Salonica and he speaks in the highest terms of him. He believes that we could secure his recall if we want him.

The mechanician who has recently been associated is a Dutchman, Classen by name, and was trained under Kajemaar of Utrecht. Mackenzie says that he is a very good mechanic.

There is also as you say the service of a laboratory

attendant for animals. In the last estimates a certain amount was set aside for glassblowing.

I am glad that you approve of Dr. Hartman remaining for next year at least.

We shall try to meet your wishes in regard to him. Please let me know if there are any other matters about which you wish information ?

We are looking for Professor Brailsford Robertson to-morrow.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
LABORATORY OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY

Feb. 18 1918

Sir Robert Falconer
Toronto University

Dear Sir Robert;

I find that I have scarcely sufficient detailed information regarding the salaries at present being paid the various helpers in the Physiological Department to make it possible for me to submit a detailed budget for next year before the end of the week. I have written Hartman for the details and whenever I hear from him will send the estimate to you.

Ample time for cogitation en route to Cleveland enabled me to form some judgments concerning the many problems which came up during my visit to Toronto. One of the refers to Bradleyford Robertson. I am still of opinion that he is the best man available to fill the position of Biochemist but his staff should not be larger than that of Physiology. I wonder if he has planned his budget as I am planning mine, on the basis that it should be as small as is consistent with efficiency, without attempting full development of the output of the department until the war is over. As I wrote you last year the department of Physiology is also distinctly undermanned in comparison with corresponding departments in the better medical schools in the States. Both

in Physiology and Biochemistry there should be one full-time man, with the rank of Demonstrator between the Lecturer and the Fellows.

With the expected large classes for next year it would be highly desirable that a Demonstrator be assigned in both departments. I believe that the extra number of students,— which will mean conducting a class in another 'unit',— justifies this appointment even during the war. I will place this item tentatively on my estimates for next year.

I hope that Robinson can be recalled from England at an early date since, being an expert carpenter, he could have the new tables made, the pavilion moved & before work begins next session. This would obviously be very important.

I will send memorandum of my expenses by another mail since I have left my note of the items at home.

I will be thank you and Lady Falconer for the generous hospitality shown me during my visit to Toronto.

With sincere regards

I am
Very truly Yours
J. J. R. Macleod.

January 21st., 1918

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Western Reserve University,

Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Professor Macleod:

We had a meeting this morning of the science men who are interested in the filling of the chair of Biochemistry. The universal opinion of the Committee was that Professor Frederick Peterson would make an admirable head for the Department, but as this Department will be so closely related to Physiology, the Committee were of opinion , as indeed I had promised you, that we should get your judgment before proceeding any further. You wrote to me that you did not know him personally, but that you thought highly of his work. Perhaps you would be good enough to let me know soon whether you would approve of our looking to him to fill the position, or whether you have any other name that you would like to bring forward.

About a fortnight ago I wrote to you with regard to the position of the mechanic in the Department of Physiology after I had a talk with Professor Mackenzie. Perhaps owing to the congestion of the mails you did not get my letter.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

February 18th, 1917

Professor A. J. E. Taylor,

Western Reserve University,

Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Professor Taylor:

I hope that you will have no difficulty in getting on your return to the United States. It did not occur to me until you mentioned it to me last night that there was some possibility of your being delayed until you were identified. My reason for this was that you were in Western Reserve University at Cleveland on the invitation of the University of Toronto just for the day to inspect our laboratories in our Department of Physiology, which to be sufficient to prevent any question as to your right to return to Cleveland.

Yours sincerely,

President of the

University of Toronto.

February 26th, 1918

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Medical Department, Western Reserve University.

My dear Professor Macleod:

Many thanks both for your telegram and your letter. I have written to Parker about the matter, but I do not know whether, he would rely on Parker's opinion. When I was in New York I saw Dr. Frank Fleming. He told me that we had heard very little about the matter, but what we heard was rather of the nature of general talk or criticism, and that if we were satisfied that we had the man which we needed and that we could not allow a matter of this kind on right in the way, Fleming thought it indicated at the moment a breach of propriety. He promised to make some further inquiries and let me know. Certainly we did not lay great stress upon this action.

I will take steps to have Robinson recalled for laboratory work for next winter.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

March 1st, 1918

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Professor Macleod:

At a meeting of the Board of Governors held yesterday I brought forward your estimates, and I have been given authority to tell you to proceed in making your purchases in accordance with these estimates, though they will not be finally passed until we make up our budget towards the end of May.

I think that until then we will, if you do not mind, allow the question of the Demonstrator to lie. Of course if it turns out that you must have one we shall do the best possible.

With regard to special grants for your research work, I hope that the Government may again this year vote us a definite sum for research, and if so I see no reason why you might not get a portion of it. Just what amount I cannot say at present. Would $1000 be a reasonable amount? Of course this will depend upon the attitude of the Government to our estimates, which however, I am glad to say ought to be favourable according to present indications.

I will take steps to have Robinson recalled, but Colonel Pentry, the O.C. of our Hospital, is on his way home for a short leave and I will do nothing until he arrives, because in any case the order would have to go through him in England.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
LABORATORY OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY

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24th March 1918

Sir Robert A. Falconer
University of Toronto

Dear Sir Robert:

I would respectfully ask you to lay before the Board of Governors of the University a request for a special grant for me, in the expenses in the prosecution of original research in physiological problems which have an application in connection with the cause and treatment of shock and allied conditions as the result.

I have been engaged for some time now in investigating the relationships which exist between the acid-base equilibrium of the animal body, the accumulation of lactic acid in the blood and the function of breathing. This study was undertaken in order to supply direct evidence which would prove or disprove the current hypothesis that the respiratory disturbances that so often precede death in various diseases (nephritis, diabetes etc) and in surgical states are due to the accumulation in the organism of lactic and similar acids. I am at present working ~~on the~~ more particularly on the condition of experimental shock.

I am very anxious to continue this work at Toronto without serious interruption. But I have found that although the physiological laboratories are thoroughly well equipped for the purely experimental

part of the research there is no adequate equipment for the prosecution of the necessarily interdependent biochemical part. Not only for this research but for future researches which I am likely to undertake the equipment referred to would also be indispensable. It includes a sensitive balance, polariscope, colorimeter, etc. extraction apparatus, constant temperature electric baths & oven, standardized volumetric glassware & certain chemicals & materials. I believe that a sum of $1000.00 would meet the present requirements and would represent the expenditure up to this amount be authorized for new work.

I can without hesitation assure the Board that the availability of such a sum would materially aid me and those whom I expect to assist in work which I believe will be of practical importance in connection with the mysterious problems of the cause of 'air-hunger' and in short.

I am
Respectfully Yours
J. J. R. Macleod.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
LABORATORY OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY

CLEVELAND, O.

April 4 18 7

Dear Sir Robert.

I was glad to learn that Professor Robertson has accepted the biochemistry chair as I could I feel quite certain that no one can accuse us of acting without properly investigating the case for the objections that were brought against his selection. It appears only a gross injustice is being perpetrated against his good name.

I have heard from Toronto that the second year class is likely to be about 200 and that the curriculum Committee is contemplating doubling the practical classes

that is, holding it in two sections, one during the first half of the other during the second half of the season. If this method is accepted — and I believe that it is as it is the best — it will simplify the departmental problem in one way but complicate it in another. It will diminish the necessity for the ~~first~~ purchase of so much new apparatus and for securing another room somewhere, but it will necessitate still further employment of assistants — I am very glad to hear that the demonstrator is a certainty and I am ~~assuming~~ planning to have the teaching assistance for a few hours a week by one or more of the more senior fellows.

Mrs Macleod joins me in hoping that you will be in Cleveland on May first and that you will be our guest for whatever spare time you may have.

Yours
Sincerely
J. J. R. Macleod.

[illegible] a part of Mrs. [illegible]'s [illegible] would be [illegible] as librarian for Physiology and Pharmacology in the medical building. [illegible] a good deal of the routine work of preparing notes and other papers for [illegible] Professor [illegible] ? Then, [illegible] with Professor [illegible] ? [illegible]

Yours sincerely,

[illegible]

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

June 10th., 1918.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir Robert,--

On consultation with Mr. Mouré I find there has been some confusion in connection with the appropriation made for the laboratory cleaner. I noted in the old budget handed me an item of $100 for laboratory attendant, and understood that this covered all requirements for cleaning. I find, however that it referred to an entirely different item, namely to the payment made to the Department of Biochemistry for services rendered this Department by one of their attendants. For a cleaner in Physiology an item of $312 should have been included in my estimate. And if we substract the $100 above referred to, which I shall not require, this leaves $212, which even at this late date I would request you to have added to my estimate.

I am sorry this mistake has been made, and must plead in excuse that these items of cleaners, etc., have always been managed In Western Reserve University from the House Department, so that I did not give the matter very close attention.

I am,

Sincerely yours,

J. J. R. Macleod

[illegible] 1[illegible]

Professor [illegible],

[illegible] Avenue,

Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Professor [illegible]:

[illegible] thanks for your letter. [illegible] sent off a telegram to Trail-[illegible] offering him the position, but naturally [illegible] time to [illegible].

I have no doubt that we can get the [illegible] for you if [illegible]. I told the Board last [illegible] that if a [illegible] could be [illegible] that it would be necessary to provide the additional [illegible].

Perhaps you might help me by giving me a statement of the research work that you [illegible]. If it is in connection with the work in [illegible] it would be easier for me to get the money. Probably work [illegible] I remember was on the effect of [illegible] on [illegible].

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
LABORATORY OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIO-CHEMISTRY

CLEVELAND, O.

April 6 1918

Dear Sir Robert,

Many thanks for your letter of Apr 3rd regarding research appropriation. I will send you in the course of the next few days orders for the apparatus. Meanwhile I have written for some quotations to the A. H. Thomas Co &c.

Yours Sincerely
J. J. R. Macleod.

March 12th, 1918

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Medical Department,

Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Professor Macleod:

I have received the enclosed letter from Parker. It seems to me that his letter and yours from Mendel together with Tay's sets the matter with regard to Robertson all right. I am therefore going to bring forward his name provisionally at the Board of Governors on Thursday telling them that I will have the final recommendation for the 28th of March. You might let me know whether this falls in with your views. I assume, however, that it does.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

February 22nd, 1918

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Medical Department,

Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Professor Macleod:

In the absence of Sir Robert Falconer in Philadelphia I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th containing a memorandum of your travelling expenses incurred during your visit to Toronto. On his return to Toronto Monday the President will arrange this with the Bursar.

Yours sincerely,

President's Secretary.

January 26th, 1918

Professor J. J. R. Macleod,

Cleveland, O.

My dear Professor Macleod:

I hope that you will be able to come over as you plan about the middle of February. Friday the 15th would suit me admirably. I have an engagement for Thursday evening and also the earlier part of the week is rather full, but on Friday I am quite free. Of course we will expect you to come and stay with us, and if you were to arrive on Thursday evening it would suit us very well.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.